

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
8 October 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin  
American Countries on the Counterinsur-  
gency Critical List

A. Countries on the Critical List

Venezuela

The government's crackdown on the left fol-  
lowing the brutal assault on an excursion train  
near Caracas on 29 September has not deterred the  
terrorists from continuing their attacks. On 30  
September, two robberies took place in the capital,  
one of them involving a US machinery firm. There  
were also five bombings on that day. On 1 October,  
an attempted attack on the USIS building in Mara-  
caibo was thwarted by the police.

The terrorists also seem to have made good  
their threat to launch an all-out campaign of vio-  
lence beginning on 4 October if the extremist con-  
gressmen arrested on 30 September had not been  
released. Press reports state that on 4 October,  
13 people were killed in Caracas by snipers. On 5  
and 6 October, sporadic assaults on military and  
police personnel and installations resulted in 30  
more casualties.

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President Romulo Betancourt, in a speech on 7 October, said, "The Venezuelan Government will ask no quarter and will give none to extremist forces who are trying to threaten the security of the Venezuelan democratic regime." Betancourt continued by saying, "I assume full historic responsibility for the measures of public order that are being put into effect."

B. Other Countries

Honduras

The remaining pro-Castro guerrilla bands located near the Honduran-Nicaraguan border pose no threat to the internal stability of Honduras, and probably will not be able to organize another incursion into Nicaragua for some time. The exact number and location of the survivors are not known, but they are believed to be scattered, weak, and disorganized. Their channels for communications and supplies have also been disrupted.

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